(d) the time by when these would be identified; and

(e) the amount of money that would be required as subsidy for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (e) A Statement has been made in the Rajya Sabha on 24.2.1997 on introduction of Targeted PDS and copies of the detailed guidelines including information on various aspects issued in this regard have also been laid on the Table of the House.

Scheme to provide Highly Subsidised Cereals to Poor

879. SHRI KRISHNHA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently launched a scheme to provide highly subsidised cereals to the poor in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for determining the poor beneficiaries of the scheme;

(d) the percentage by which the existing food subsidy is likely to rise as a result thereof;

(e) the estimated poor population falling under the criteria likely to be benefited by the scheme; and

(f) the estimated increase in the supply of foodgrains through PDS for distribution to the poor and the manner in which Government propose to maintain the additional supply of foodgrains to the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Government of India have decided to streamline the PDS with focus on the poor. A detailed Statement on the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been made in Rajya Sabha on 24.2.1997 and copies of the detailed guidelines including information on various aspects of TPDS issued in this regard have also been laid on the Table of the House.

Quota of Sugar, Wheat and Rice for Bihar

880. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quota of sugar, wheat and rice released to Bihar during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was far below the requirement of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The following is the allocation and off-take of rice, wheat and sugar to Bihar State during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97:—

(In '000 MTs)

YEAR	RICE		WHEAT		SUGAR
	Alln.	Off-take	Alln.	Off-** take	Allocation*
1994-95	372.00	39.70	714.00	222.30	407.88
1995-96	381.60	23.50	705.60	227.30	426.80
1996-97	389.60	26.10**	697.60	351.70**	464.12

*Off take reported to be 100%

**Off take figures are from April, 1996 to January, 1997.